

the art. Such modifications and variations are to be considered within the purview and scope of the present invention.

### **Claims**

1. A method of matching a buyer of goods with a seller of goods comprising the following steps:

- collecting information from the seller relating to the goods;
- classifying the goods according to a pre-selected set of criteria selected by the seller, the pre-selected set of criteria including data relating to buyers that are to be denied access to the goods;
- listing the goods in a secured manner;
- collecting information relevant to said pre-selected set of criteria from the buyer;
- verifying the information collected from the buyer;
- selecting an approved buyer based on verified information;
- authorizing the approved buyer to request a query of the listed goods for those goods that the buyer seeks to buy;
- determining which goods are available for the approved buyer to buy based on a linkage between the approved buyer, the query and the pre-selected set of criteria.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein there is a plurality of sellers and buyers.
3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the approved buyer can purchase from the seller goods which are determined to be available.
4. A method according to claim 1 further including the following additional steps:

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  - collecting information related to seller's identification;
  - verifying the information collected from the seller;
  - selecting an approved seller based on verified information; and
  - authorizing the approved seller to provide information relating to goods of the seller.

- 10 5. A method according to claim 1 wherein the verifying step comprises a means for manually confirming the buyer information by way of publicly available data.

6. A method according to claim 1 wherein the verifying step comprises a means for manually confirming the buyer information by way of privately held data.

- 15 7. A method according to claim 1 wherein the identity of the seller is not disclosed to the buyer.

8. A method of matching a buyer of goods with a seller of goods comprising the following steps:

- collecting information from the seller relating to the goods;

- classifying the goods according to a pre-selected set of criteria selected by the seller, the pre-selected set of criteria including data relating to buyers that are to be denied access to the goods;
- listing the goods in a secured manner;
- 5      • collecting information relevant to said pre-selected set of criteria from the buyer;
- verifying the information collected from the buyer;
- selecting a rejected buyer based on verified information; and
- preventing a rejected buyer from accessing the listed goods.

10      9.      A method according to claim 8 including a plurality of sellers and buyers.

10.      A system for matching a buyer of goods with a seller of goods comprising:

- means for collecting information from the seller relating to the goods;
- means for classifying the goods according to a pre-selected set of criteria selected by the seller, the pre-selected set of criteria including data relating to buyers that are to be denied access to the goods;
- 15      • a database containing a listing of the goods in a secured manner;
- means for collecting information relevant to said pre-selected set of criteria from the buyer;

- means to verify the said buyer information;
  - means to select an approved buyer based on the verified buyer information;
  - an input means for permitting the approved buyer to query the database for goods that the approved buyer seeks to buy;
- 5      • a data processor for determining which items of goods are available for the approved buyer to buy based on a linkage between the approved buyer, the query and the pre-selected set of criteria.

11.    A system according to claim 10 including a plurality of sellers and buyers.

12.    A system according to claim 10 further including:

- 10      • means for collecting information related to seller's identification;
- means for verifying the information collected from the seller;
  - means for selecting an approved seller based on verified information; and
  - means for authorizing the approved seller to provide information relating to goods of the seller.

15    13.    A system according to claim 10 wherein the sellers and approved buyers access the system by way of a public communications network.

14.    A system according to claim 10 wherein the sellers and approved buyers access the system by way of a private communications network.

15. A system according to claim 10 wherein the verification means comprises a processing means for automatically confirming the buyer information by way of publicly available data.

16. A system according to claim 10 wherein the verification means comprises a means for manually confirming the buyer information by way of publicly available data.

17. A system according to claim 10 wherein the verification means comprises a processing means for automatically confirming the buyer information by way of privately available data.

18. A system according to claim 10 wherein the verification means comprises a means for manually confirming the buyer information by way of privately available data.

19. A system for matching a buyer of goods with a seller of goods comprising:

- means for collecting information from the seller relating to the goods;
- means for classifying the goods according to a pre-selected set of criteria selected by the seller, the pre-selected set of criteria including data relating to buyers that are to be denied access to the goods;
- a database containing a listing of the goods in a secured manner;
- means for collecting information relevant to said pre-selected set of criteria from the buyer;

- means to verify said buyer information;
- means to select a rejected buyer based on the verified buyer information; and
- means to prevent the rejected buyer from accessing the listing of goods.

20. A system according to claim 19 including a plurality of buyers and sellers.

11/27/2019 10:00 AM